

and its failure to address the land and water conservation and management needs of our nation. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been a valuable program for my district. This has been a fund to assist communities in helping preserve open space to protect and conserve unique landscapes. The cut in funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a cut in land conservation for Colorado.

For those who know, the 3rd Congressional District is comprised of rural communities containing millions of acres of public lands. These public lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. These agencies and public lands provide many benefits for the local communities in my district. I am disappointed with the decrease in funding to these agencies in this year's Interior Appropriations Conference Report. These agencies have to maintain a difficult balance of managing our nation's public lands with budget constraints. By cutting funding to these agencies it makes it very difficult for them to maintain their current management practices and leaves our nation's public lands in jeopardy.

With that being said, this report does have some positive aspects. The funding of \$5.6 billion for Indian programs is beneficial for school and hospital construction, education grants, human services programs, and law enforcement needs. These programs are essential for the Native American reservations within my district.

More often than not, in the West, the Federal Government is not just your neighbor, it is the entire neighborhood. Since most of my district cannot raise taxes, Payment in Lieu of Funding is vital. These counties with public lands within their boundaries need this funding for schools, roads, and other infrastructure needs. This program has never been fully funded, yet my counties are dependent upon this program. I hope to see this program fully funded next year.

I also want to see continued funding for the National Fire Plan and the forest health initiatives. These programs need to see increased funding due to the continued drought periods in the West and the current pine beetle epidemic. If the beetle infestations are not addressed, we will continue to see our forests

decimated. These insects will continue to cause fire hazards in our nation's forests if we do not get them under control.

I urge Congress next year to fully fund these agency budgets. This is critical to the Western States and our existence.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representatives OBEY and DICKS for their assistance in securing \$100,000 for Montrose's City Hall Renovation Project. The City Hall building of Montrose was built in 1926 and has been well preserved throughout the years. However, as the City and County continues to grow, so too must the building in order to accommodate the needs of the people. Preserving and expanding the City Hall building in Montrose will allow us to keep a part of history alive for future generations of Colorado. Mr. Speaker once again I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation. We need to sure up our VA budget so we can continue to provide critical health care services to our nation's veterans. In the future we need to restore the Land and Water Conservation funding and fully fund our agencies budgets.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Without objection the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2985.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2985, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2985), making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 396, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement see proceedings of the House of July 26, 2005 at Page H6628.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume. I do not expect that we will use very much of our time, Mr. Speaker.

The conference report I bring forth today to fund the legislative branch involves those activities providing some \$3 billion, 800 million, an increase of 4.5 percent over the year 2005.

Mr. Speaker, the adjustments upward almost entirely represent increased expenditures for our police services and security around the Capitol campus, and, beyond that, expenses that are directly related to the development of the Congressional Visitors Center.

Otherwise the bill is absolutely flat in terms of spending over 2005-2006. It is a very, very lean bill. I urge the Members to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT - FY 2006 (H.R. 2985)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH						
SENATE						
Expense allowances:						
Vice President.....	20	20	---	20	20	---
President Pro Tempore of the Senate.....	40	40	---	40	40	---
Majority Leader of the Senate.....	40	40	---	40	40	---
Minority Leader of the Senate.....	40	40	---	40	40	---
Majority Whip of the Senate.....	10	10	---	10	10	---
Minority Whip of the Senate.....	10	10	---	10	10	---
President Pro Tempore Emeritus of the Senate.....	15	15	---	15	15	---
Chairman of the Majority Conference Committee.....	5	5	---	5	5	---
Chairman of the Minority Conference Committee.....	5	5	---	5	5	---
Chairman of the Majority Policy Committee.....	5	5	---	5	5	---
Chairman of the Minority Policy Committee.....	5	5	---	5	5	---
Subtotal, expense allowances.....	195	195	---	195	195	---
Representation allowances for the Majority and Minority Leaders.....	30	30	---	30	30	---
Total, Expense allowances and representation....	225	225	---	225	225	---
Salaries, Officers and Employees						
Office of the Vice President.....	2,108	2,181	---	2,181	2,181	+73
Office of the President Pro Tempore.....	561	582	---	582	582	+21
Office of the President Pro Tempore Emeritus.....	163	290	---	290	290	+127
Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders.....	3,808	4,340	---	4,340	4,340	+532
Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips.....	2,556	2,644	---	2,644	2,644	+88
Committee on Appropriations.....	13,301	13,758	---	13,758	13,758	+457
Conference committees.....	2,826	2,940	---	2,940	2,940	+114
Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority.....	702	728	---	728	728	+26
Policy Committees.....	2,946	3,048	---	3,048	3,048	+102
Office of the Chaplain.....	341	354	---	354	354	+13
Office of the Secretary.....	19,586	20,866	---	20,866	20,866	+1,280
Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.....	50,635	57,743	---	56,700	56,700	+6,065
Offices of the Secretaries for the Majority and Minority.....	1,528	1,584	---	1,584	1,584	+56
Agency contributions and related expenses.....	33,779	37,105	---	37,105	37,105	+3,326
Outlays.....	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total, Salaries, officers and employees.....	134,840	148,163	---	147,120	147,120	+12,280
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate						
Salaries and expenses.....	5,152	5,437	---	5,437	5,437	+285
Office of Senate Legal Counsel						
Salaries and expenses.....	1,265	1,306	---	1,306	1,306	+41
Expense Allowances of the Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, and Secretaries for the Majority and Minority of the Senate: Expenses allowances.....	24	24	---	24	24	---
Contingent Expenses of the Senate						
Inquiries and investigations.....	110,000	119,637	---	119,637	119,637	+9,637
Expenses of United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.....	520	520	---	520	520	---
Secretary of the Senate.....	1,700	1,900	---	1,980	1,980	+280
Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.....	127,182	162,225	---	142,000	142,000	+14,818
Miscellaneous items.....	18,326	18,326	---	17,000	17,000	-1,326
Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account.....	320,660	364,985	---	350,000	350,000	+29,340
Official Mail Costs						
Expenses.....	300	300	---	300	300	---
Total, Contingent expenses of the Senate.....	578,688	667,893	---	631,437	631,437	+52,749
Total, Senate.....	720,194	823,048	---	785,549	785,549	+65,355

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT - FY 2006 (H.R. 2985)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES						
Payments to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress (emergency) (P.L. 109-13).....	162	---	---	---	---	-162
Salaries and Expenses						
House Leadership Offices						
Office of the Speaker.....	2,708	2,788	2,788	2,788	2,788	+80
Office of the Majority Floor Leader.....	2,027	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	+62
Office of the Minority Floor Leader.....	2,840	2,928	2,928	2,928	2,928	+88
Office of the Majority Whip.....	1,741	1,797	1,797	1,797	1,797	+56
Office of the Minority Whip.....	1,303	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,345	+42
Speaker's Office for Legislative Floor Activities.....	470	482	482	482	482	+12
Republican Steering Committee.....	881	906	906	906	906	+25
Republican Conference.....	1,500	1,548	1,548	1,548	1,548	+48
Republican Policy Committee.....	---	307	307	307	307	+307
Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.....	1,589	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945	+356
Democratic Caucus.....	792	816	816	816	816	+24
Nine minority employees.....	1,409	1,445	1,445	1,445	1,445	+36
Training and Program Development:						
Majority.....	290	290	290	290	290	---
Minority.....	290	290	290	290	290	---
Clerkroom Personnel:						
Majority.....	419	434	434	434	434	+15
Minority.....	419	434	434	434	434	+15
Subtotal, House Leadership Offices.....	18,678	19,844	19,844	19,844	19,844	+1,166
Members' Representational Allowances Including Members' Clerk Hire, Official Expenses of Members, and Official Mail						
Expenses.....	525,195	564,536	538,109	538,109	542,109	+16,914
Committee Employees						
Standing Committees, Special and Select.....	113,499	117,913	117,913	117,913	117,913	+4,414
Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investigations).....	24,726	25,668	25,668	25,668	25,668	+942
Subtotal, Committee employees.....	138,225	143,581	143,581	143,581	143,581	+5,356
Salaries, Officers and Employees						
Office of the Clerk.....	20,534	21,911	21,911	21,911	21,911	+1,377
Office of the Sergeant at Arms.....	5,879	6,284	6,284	6,284	6,284	+405
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.....	143,645	119,804	116,971	116,971	121,471	-22,174
Office of the Inspector General.....	3,986	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991	+5
Office for Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Operations.....	1,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	+4,000
Office of General Counsel.....	962	962	962	962	962	---
Office of the Chaplain.....	155	161	161	161	161	+6
Office of the Parliamentarian.....	1,673	1,767	1,767	1,767	1,767	+94
Office of the Parliamentarian.....	(1,459)	(1,546)	(1,546)	(1,546)	(1,546)	(+87)
Compilation of precedents of the House of Representatives.....	(214)	(221)	(221)	(221)	(221)	(+7)
Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House.....	2,346	2,453	2,453	2,453	2,453	+107
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House.....	6,721	6,963	6,963	6,963	6,963	+242
Office of Interparliamentary Affairs.....	687	720	720	720	720	+33
Other authorized employees.....	156	161	161	161	161	+5
Office of the Historian.....	---	---	405	405	405	+405
Subtotal, Salaries, officers and employees.....	187,744	170,177	167,749	167,749	172,249	-15,495
Allowances and Expenses						
Supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims.....	4,350	4,179	4,179	4,179	4,179	-171
Official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House.....	410	410	410	410	410	---
Government contributions.....	203,900	214,422	214,422	214,422	214,422	+10,522

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT - FY 2006 (H.R. 2985)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Miscellaneous items.....	690	703	703	703	703	+13
Capitol Visitor Center.....	---	9,965	3,410	3,410	3,410	+3,410
Subtotal, Allowances and expenses.....	209,350	229,679	223,124	223,124	223,124	+13,774
Total, Salaries and expenses.....	1,079,192	1,127,817	1,092,407	1,092,407	1,100,907	+21,715
Total, House of Representatives.....	1,079,354	1,127,817	1,092,407	1,092,407	1,100,907	+21,553
JOINT ITEMS						
Joint Economic Committee.....	4,139	4,276	4,276	4,276	4,276	+137
Joint Committee on Taxation.....	8,366	8,781	8,781	8,781	8,781	+415
Office of the Attending Physician						
Medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances.....	2,508	2,545	2,545	2,545	2,545	+37
Capitol Guide Service and Special Services Office.....	3,844	4,098	4,268	4,098	4,098	+254
Statements of Appropriations.....	30	30	30	30	30	---
Total, Joint items.....	18,887	19,730	19,900	19,730	19,730	+843
CAPITOL POLICE						
Salaries.....	201,812	230,191	210,350	222,600	217,456	+15,644
General expenses.....	39,657	59,948	29,345	42,000	32,000	-7,657
Total, Capitol Police.....	241,469	290,139	239,695	264,600	249,456	+7,987
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE						
Salaries and expenses.....	2,402	3,112	3,112	3,112	3,112	+710
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE						
Salaries and expenses.....	34,640	35,853	35,450	35,853	35,450	+810
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL						
General administration.....	79,704	76,982	77,002	76,522	76,812	-2,892
Capitol building.....	28,626	27,105	22,097	25,380	23,352	-5,274
Capitol grounds.....	15,118	7,801	7,723	7,061	7,511	-7,607
Senate office buildings.....	61,586	65,564	---	67,004	67,004	+5,418
House office buildings.....	64,830	68,698	59,616	59,616	59,616	-5,214
Capitol Power Plant.....	60,744	65,755	65,185	65,317	65,285	+4,541
Offsetting collections.....	-4,365	-6,500	-6,600	-6,500	-6,600	-2,235
Net subtotal, Capitol Power Plant.....	56,379	59,255	58,585	58,817	58,685	+2,306
Library buildings and grounds.....	39,776	83,318	31,318	70,948	68,763	+28,987
Capitol police buildings and grounds.....	9,906	34,959	16,830	10,031	14,902	+4,996
Botanic garden.....	6,275	10,613	7,211	7,633	7,633	+1,358
Capitol Visitor Center						
CVC Project (cost-to-complete).....	---	36,900	36,900	41,900	41,900	+41,900
CVC Operations.....	---	35,285	---	2,300	2,300	+2,300
Total, Capitol Visitor Center.....	---	72,185	36,900	44,200	44,200	+44,200
Total, Architect of the Capitol.....	362,200	506,480	317,282	427,212	428,478	+66,278
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS						
Salaries and expenses.....	381,593	409,079	388,144	397,285	395,754	+14,161
Authority to spend receipts.....	-6,299	-6,350	-6,350	-6,350	-6,350	-51
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses.....	375,294	402,729	381,794	390,935	389,404	+14,110

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT - FY 2006 (H.R. 2985)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Copyright Office, salaries and expenses.....	53,182	58,191	58,601	57,322	58,601	+5,419
Authority to spend receipts.....	-33,209	-30,657	-35,946	-34,622	-35,946	-2,737
Subtotal, Copyright Office.....	19,973	27,534	22,655	22,700	22,655	+2,682
Congressional Research Service, salaries and expenses.	96,118	105,289	99,952	101,755	100,916	+4,798
Books for the blind and physically handicapped,						
Salaries and expenses.....	53,977	55,243	54,049	64,172	54,449	+472
Subtotal, Library of Congress.....	545,362	590,795	558,450	579,562	567,424	+22,062
Rescission, Chapter 9, Division A, Misc.						
Appropriations Act, 2001.....	---	---	-15,500	---	-6,858	-6,858
Total, Library of Congress.....	545,362	590,795	542,950	579,562	560,566	+15,204
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE						
Congressional printing and binding.....	88,090	92,283	82,690	88,090	88,090	---
Office of Superintendent of Documents						
Salaries and expenses.....	31,697	33,837	33,337	33,837	33,337	+1,640
Government Printing Office Revolving Fund.....	---	5,000	1,200	5,000	2,000	+2,000
Total, Government Printing Office.....	119,787	131,120	117,227	126,927	123,427	+3,640
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE						
Salaries and expenses.....	474,565	493,548	489,560	491,548	489,560	+14,995
Offsetting collections.....	-7,360	-7,165	-7,165	-7,165	-7,165	+195
Total, Government Accountability Office.....	467,205	486,383	482,395	484,383	482,395	+15,190
OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER						
Payment to the Open World Leadership Center						
Trust Fund.....	13,392	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	+608
STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE						
Stennis Center for Public Service.....	---	---	---	430	430	+430
Sec. 6050 - U.S. Senate (emergency) P.L. 109-13).....	35,000	---	---	---	---	-35,000
Grand total.....	3,639,892	4,028,477	2,864,418	3,833,765	3,803,500	+163,608

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT - FY 2006 (H.R. 2985)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted

RECAPITULATION						
Senate.....	720,194	823,048	---	785,549	785,549	+65,355
House of Representatives.....	1,079,354	1,127,817	1,092,407	1,092,407	1,100,907	+21,553
Joint Items.....	18,887	19,730	19,900	19,730	19,730	+843
Capitol Police.....	241,469	290,139	239,695	264,600	249,456	+7,987
Office of Compliance.....	2,402	3,112	3,112	3,112	3,112	+710
Congressional Budget Office.....	34,640	35,853	35,450	35,853	35,450	+810
Architect of the Capitol.....	362,200	506,480	317,282	427,212	428,478	+66,278
Library of Congress.....	545,362	590,795	542,950	579,562	560,566	+15,204
Government Printing Office.....	119,787	131,120	117,227	126,927	123,427	+3,640
Government Accountability Office.....	467,205	486,383	482,395	484,383	482,395	+15,190
Open World Leadership Center.....	13,392	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	+608
Stennis Center for Public Service.....	---	---	---	430	430	+430
Sec. 6050 - U.S. Senate (emergency) P.L. 109-13).....	35,000	---	---	---	---	-35,000
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Grand total.....	3,639,892	4,028,477	2,864,418	3,833,765	3,803,500	+163,608
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, at the risk of beating a dead horse, I would once again like to express my profound misgivings about supporting this bill this afternoon.

Obviously this Chamber has basic expenses, and they have to be paid for, but I want to suggest that I think that the visitors center, which is now being constructed on the east side of the Capitol, is a project which, while it might be desirable, has been managed in such an outlandish fashion that I think before it is done, it is going to bring great embarrassment to this institution.

The fact is that that center started out costing around \$90 million. Before it is finished, it is now going to cost a good \$600 million. It was supposed to be open by 2005. We are going to be lucky if it will be open and fully operational, if we ignore the nice word games that we have been presented by the Architect's office; in fact, we will be lucky if this is fully operational by the year 2007.

In my view, this project has been mismanaged as badly as the entire Federal budget has been mismanaged. That hole that we used to have out here, I think, was symbolic of the hole in logic that has dominated the administration of this entire project.

I have two principal objections to that visitors center. Number one, I think it is far too expensive. And, secondly, I object to the misallocation of space in that project.

Now, I have seen three different stories that have purportedly reported on my objections to the center. And each of those stories leaves the impression that my major concern is simply that Congress did not have enough room. That is not my point at all.

My point is that when you have such a huge addition of space to the Capitol, that space should be allocated in an intelligent way, in a way which makes Congress more efficient, in a way which gives Congress more working space as opposed to propaganda space.

We are going to have a lot of money lavished on a media center. We are going to have all of the creature comforts that you can imagine for any of the reporters who cover Members of Congress in that media center. But there will be very little done to make this Congress more able to sit down in a timely fashion in conference and work out our differences.

So I think a tremendous amount of space has been wasted. And I think a tremendous amount of taxpayers' dollars have been wasted. And the reason I am voting against this is because I think this is the last chance that any of us will have to ask the leadership of this House and the Architect's office to at least review the way space is being allocated, at least review the way taxpayer dollars are being expended.

We are going to have, when this project is over, we will have a project

which is cosmetically beautiful, no question about that. There will be lots of Taj Mahal marble show space, but there will be very little working space that will be added.

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I think that if we are not getting the biggest bang from the buck we ought to be getting out of a project like this. I do believe that not only is the cost of this project out of control, I think the heating center project which is also ongoing is also going to wind up embarrassing this institution significantly.

So I intend to vote "no." I am not going to particularly try to ask anyone to vote any which way, but I intend to vote "no" because I think this visitor center represents a missed opportunity and a spectacular case of mismanagement and wasting of taxpayer funds.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is by way of suggesting to my colleagues in the body that my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), is raising serious questions regarding the visitor center, and because of that focus he has not spent a lot of time today talking about the fundamentals of this bill that relate to supporting the institution, the work of the legislative branch, an effort which is fundamental to our being successful as a legislative branch.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and I share together great concern about making sure that work goes forward and goes forward successfully. We are partners. In connection with this, I, frankly, today would like to predict at least that somewhere out there before we leave the Congress, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and I together will walk with our brides through this visitors centers and have different kinds of observations. We will enjoy much of the Taj, but in the meantime it will be a fabulous addition to the Congress, the largest addition that has been made in our lifetime at any rate, my public affairs lifetime.

I am very proud of the work of this subcommittee, the work they have done to carry forward the effort of the legislative branch.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would not mind, I would like to take just a moment to ask my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), to kind of introduce your piece of that because the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and he share similar interests regarding the real work of the legislative branch.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say this is a good bill. It is a bill that every Member should support. It is a bill that takes care of all the

things that get done around here. Every day there is a RECORD printed of every word that is spoken in the House. Every day there are Clerks that show up here that help the Members. Every day there are people here that take care of the security of the Capitol. Every day there are people here to make sure that we can come and do our work and this bill takes care of all of that.

That is why it is a bill that is absolutely critical to every Member of this institution. It is a bill that I think highlights some of the important things that have gone on and will go on around here in terms of opportunities to enhance the facilities, one of the most beautiful, magnificent buildings in the world, and the one across the street, the Library of Congress, is also accounted for, and the staff that work there and provide the kind of resources, the people that do the research that help us write the bills around here and all of that staff.

There is also in this bill the opportunity not only to enhance a visitors center, which may not be perfect but one that is sorely needed, but there are also provisions in this bill to account for what happens if some sort of national calamity would fall upon the United States Capitol, the idea of continuity and how we should succeed ourselves around here. I think that is an important part of it.

I hope during our deliberations next year we can consider some sort of governance board for the visitors center to account for maybe a little bit more opportunity to look at how it should be run and how it should be operated. But this is a good bill.

This is the bill that says to all of the people that make this institution work, we are grateful to you. This is the bill that says to all the people who help us get our jobs done, we thank you for what you do. And this is a bill that deserves the support of every Member of the Chamber.

I encourage all Members to vote "aye" on the legislative branch bill so that we can continue to keep the operations of the United States Capitol, the House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and all the workings of this great institution going.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) for reminding me that I forgot to mention the continuity issue as well. Again, I find myself in the minority.

This is a very important question. What we are talking about here is very simply, what would happen if a large number of Members of Congress were obliterated in some kind of terrorist attack and we were left in a crisis situation? And we have very simply a choice that needs to be made. We have a choice between an operation which would allow the executive branch to essentially operate almost any way it sees fits with perhaps only a handful of

surviving Members for a 45-day period until we can have special elections to replace Members of Congress who might have been killed in such an attack; or we could follow a different model under which we would have this Congress populated for a temporary period by persons who are appointed under a previously prescribed procedure until we could have a special election so that we would again have elected representatives for each of the 435 districts in this House.

I much prefer the latter. I do not think it is a good idea, as this bill does, to, in effect, create a situation in which we would have one-man rule for 45 days. We could have literally only a handful of Members of Congress who had survived an attack, and I do not think under those circumstances that we want to be ruled by a President without any kind of checks and balances whatsoever.

So there is an honest, intellectual difference of opinion on this question. And I think we are going down the wrong road. I think that by choosing the model that was chosen, what is happening is that we are in fact choosing form over substance. It is indeed important to have persons who represent each of our districts be elected representatives. But if the Member from an individual district is blown away in a terrorist attack, it is in my judgment, better that that district be represented on a temporary basis by an appointed person rather than having them represented by no one at all for that period.

So that is why I think that this House in its haste to find a solution is going down the wrong road.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. LAHOOD. I wonder if the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) would, since I gave him a friendly reminder, would be willing to vote for the bill now as a result from the fact now that you could now expound on this for another 5 minutes?

Mr. OBEY. No, I do not think so. I think there is always room in this place for protest votes, and this is one occasion when I intend to exercise it; but I thank the gentleman for his efforts.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say this. We did have a very spirited debate on this issue of continuity. We really did. I do not know if there were 5 or 6 or 7 hours, but the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) had his chance to present his bill and have a vote on it. And, frankly, not very many Members voted for it. And we did have a good debate about it, but I think ultimately the Speaker decided that we have to get on with this issue and this was the place to put it.

It may not be the best place, but it is in this bill because I think the Speaker felt an obligation that we have to deal with this issue at some point. It may not be perfect, but we did have a very good debate about it, and I think that is why it is included in the bill.

I thank the chairman for allowing me to explain that.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of agreeing to the conference report on the bill, H.R. 2361, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for the electronic vote on the question of adoption of the conference report on H.R. 2985.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 10, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 450]
YEAS—410

Abercrombie	Bonner	Chabot	Diaz-Balart, L.	Kind	Peterson (PA)
Ackerman	Bono	Chandler	Diaz-Balart, M.	King (IA)	Pickering
Aderholt	Boozman	Chocola	Dicks	King (NY)	Pitts
Akin	Boren	Clay	Doggett	Kingston	Platts
Alexander	Boswell	Cleaver	Doolittle	Kirk	Poe
Allen	Boucher	Clyburn	Doyle	Kline	Pombo
Baca	Boustany	Coble	Drake	Knollenberg	Pomeroy
Bachus	Boyd	Cole (OK)	Dreier	Kolbe	Porter
Baird	Bradley (NH)	Conaway	Edwards	Kucinich	Price (GA)
Baker	Brady (PA)	Conyers	Ehlers	Kuhl (NY)	Price (NC)
Baldwin	Brady (TX)	Cooper	Emanuel	LaHood	Pryce (OH)
Barrett (SC)	Brown (OH)	Costa	Emerson	Langevin	Putnam
Barrow	Brown (SC)	Costello	Engel	Lantos	Radanovich
Bartlett (MD)	Brown, Corrine	Crenshaw	English (PA)	Larsen (WA)	Rahall
Barton (TX)	Brown-Waite,	Crowley	Eshoo	Larson (CT)	Ramstad
Bass	Ginny	Cubin	Etheridge	Latham	Rangel
Bean	Burgess	Culberson	Evans	LaTourette	Regula
Beauprez	Burton (IN)	Cummings	Everett	Leach	Rehberg
Becerra	Butterfield	Cunningham	Farr	Lee	Reichert
Berkley	Buyer	Davis (AL)	Fattah	Levin	Reyes
Berman	Calvert	Davis (CA)	Feeney	Lewis (CA)	Reynolds
Berry	Camp	Davis (IL)	Ferguson	Lewis (GA)	Rogers (AL)
Biggert	Cannon	Davis (KY)	Filner	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (KY)
Bilirakis	Cantor	Davis (TN)	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Linder	Rogers (MI)
Bishop (GA)	Capito	Davis, Jo Ann	Foley	Lipinski	Rohrabacher
Bishop (NY)	Capps	Davis, Tom	Forbes	LoBiondo	Ros-Lehtinen
Bishop (UT)	Capuano	Deal (GA)	Ford	Lofgren, Zoe	Ross
Blackburn	Cardin	DeFazio	Fortenberry	Lowe	Rothman
Blumenauer	Cardoza	DeGette	Fossella	Lucas	Roybal-Allard
Blunt	Carnahan	DeLauro	Fox	Lungren, Daniel	Royce
Boehlert	Carter	DeLay	Frank (MA)	E.	Ruppersberger
Boehner	Case	Dent	Frelinghuysen	Mack	Rush
Bonilla	Castle		Gallegly	Maloney	Ryan (OH)
			Garrett (NJ)	Manzullo	Ryan (WI)
			Gerlach	Marchant	Ryan (KS)
			Gibbons	Markey	Sabo
			Gilchrest	Marshall	Salazar
			Gingrey	Matheson	Sanchez, Linda
			Gohmert	Matsui	T.
			Gonzalez	McCarthy	Sanchez, Loretta
			Goode	McCaul (TX)	Sanders
			Goodlatte	McCollum (MN)	Saxton
			Gordon	McCotter	Schiff
			Granger	McCrery	Schwartz (PA)
			Green (WI)	McDermott	Schwarz (MI)
			Green, Al	McGovern	Scott (VA)
			Green, Gene	McHenry	Sensenbrenner
			Grijalva	McHugh	Serrano
			Gutierrez	McIntyre	Sessions
			Gutknecht	McKeon	Shadegg
			Hall	McKinney	Shaw
			Harman	McMorris	Shays
			Harris	McNulty	Sherman
			Hart	Meehan	Sherwood
			Hastert	Meek (FL)	Shimkus
			Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)	Shuster
			Hastings (WA)	Melancon	Simmons
			Hayes	Menendez	Simpson
			Hayworth	Mica	Skelton
			Herger	Michaud	Slaughter
			Herseth	Millender	Smith (NJ)
			Higgins	McDonald	Smith (TX)
			Hinchey	Miller (FL)	Smith (WA)
			Hinojosa	Miller (MI)	Snyder
			Hobson	Miller (NC)	Sodrel
			Hoekstra	Miller, Gary	Solis
			Holden	Miller, George	Souder
			Holt	Mollohan	Spratt
			Honda	Moore (KS)	Stark
			Hooley	Moore (WI)	Stearns
			Hostettler	Moran (KS)	Strickland
			Hoyer	Moran (VA)	Stupak
			Hulshof	Murphy	Sullivan
			Hunter	Murtha	Sweeney
			Hyde	Musgrave	Tancred
			Inglis (SC)	Myrick	Tanner
			Inslee	Nadler	Tauscher
			Israel	Napolitano	Taylor (MS)
			Issa	Neal (MA)	Taylor (NC)
			Istook	Neugebauer	Terry
			Jackson (IL)	Ney	Thomas
			Jackson-Lee	Northup	Thompson (CA)
			(TX)	Norwood	Thompson (MS)
			Jefferson	Nunes	Thornberry
			Jenkins	Nussle	Tiahrt
			Jindal	Oberstar	Tiberi
			Johnson (CT)	Obey	Tierney
			Johnson (IL)	Ortiz	Towns
			Johnson, E. B.	Osborne	Turner
			Johnson, Sam	Otter	Udall (CO)
			Jones (OH)	Owens	Udall (NM)
			Kanjorski	Oxley	Upton
			Kaptur	Pallone	Van Hollen
			Keller	Pascrell	Velazquez
			Kelly	Pastor	Vislosky
			Kennedy (MN)	Payne	Walden (OR)
			Kennedy (RI)	Pearce	Walsh
			Kildee	Pelosi	Wamp
			Kilpatrick (MI)	Peterson (MN)	